



ARTICLE 44

Moratorium on Implementation of NRC Dog Restrictions on Conservation Land

Letter Mailed on March 22, 2018 to all Concord Households with Registered Dogs

Dear Concord Dog Walker,

March 2018

Concord is proud to be a community with substantial conservation land suited for everyone. Conservation lands provide havens for the public to find peace and solace, and also serve to protect nature and biodiversity. We welcome those with dogs to enjoy our conservation lands and would like to make you aware of recent regulations that were passed by the Natural Resources Commission to encourage a safe and enjoyable experience for all users. It is the Commission's goal to minimize the concerns and problems that can arise when dogs are off-leash or not under effective control.

More than 70 percent of Town conservation land trails are available for off-leash dog walking; subject to the following rules and regulations:

1. Dogs must be on leash or under effective voice control at all times.
2. People and dogs must stay on marked trails.
3. Leash dogs in areas that are so posted.
4. Dogs must be within sight at all times.
5. Always carry a leash for each dog (8 foot maximum).
6. Maximum of 2 dogs are allowed off leash per person. 3 dogs total are permitted per person.
7. Leash up in parking areas and until you reach a sign allowing unleashing.
8. Leash up as you approach other trail users.
9. Always pick up dog waste and dispose of waste properly.
10. Dogs must be licensed and up to date on vaccinations.
11. Dogs are not permitted to chase, hunt, or harass people, wildlife, other dogs, horses, or livestock.

At Punkatasset, White Pond, and food-producing agricultural fields on conservation land, dogs must be leashed at all times. At Mattison Field, dogs must be leashed between April 1 and July 31 to protect ground nesting bobolink. A map of conservation lands showing areas of on and off leash dog walking is enclosed. We appreciate responsible dog walkers who abide by these rules.

Summer Rangers and Natural Resources staff will be patrolling conservation lands with greater regularity; dog walkers who fail to abide by the regulations will face warnings and fines.

Thank you for helping to protect our conservation lands for current and future generations to enjoy.

Concord Natural Resources Commission

